

# WIMBLEDON INDEPENDENT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

## Ordinary General Meeting

The Back Bar, Kingsmeadow Stadium  
Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2006, 12.30 p.m.

### MINUTES

---

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Ross Maclagan, WISA Secretary, chaired the meeting in the absence of Simon Wheeler, the WISA Chair. Apologies had also been received from Helen Andrews, Charlie Bell, Lou Carton-Kelly, Roger and Linda Dennis, Alan Edwards, Gerry Hever, Tim Hillyer, John Lloyd and Fran O'Toole.

#### **2. AGM Minutes 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005:**

The minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005 were agreed. Certain matters arising would be dealt with under the appropriate agenda item.

#### **3. Report from the Treasurer:**

Sean Fox, Treasurer, presented the accounts, observing that WISA could do with even more new memberships, as more money was currently being spent than was being taken in! The accounts were agreed.

#### **4. Conflict of Interest Clause:**

WISA Committee was now proposing to add the following clause to the Constitution.

##### Conflict of Interest Clause

Add new clause 4.14 as follows and re-number other points as appropriate

NO person shall be eligible to take up a position on the WISA Committee, or as WISA Auditors who is a serving member of the Dons Trust Board or any of its subsidiary or wholly owned companies. In addition any person who may be deemed to have a prejudicial conflict of interest by way of employment or contractual relationship with the Trust, Club or associated companies.

Any serving member of the WISA Committee who during their term of office becomes subject to the above clause shall step down from their post with immediate effect and the procedure outlined below shall be implemented.

The only exception to this provision shall be any person elected or appointed to represent WISA in accordance with clause 1.2.2 of the Constitution

Any WISA member may make a complaint of Conflict of Interest by writing to the Secretary of WISA. In the event of any such complaint being received the procedure shall be as follows.

- 1) The WISA Committee shall set up a “Conflict of interest” Sub Committee of no less than three committee members. This shall include the Chair, the Secretary and at least one other. This may not be the person who is the subject of the Conflict of Interest. In the event that the Chair or Secretary are the effected person it shall include the other and two other members of the Committee.
- 2) This Sub Committee shall investigate the complaint and make a ruling. The finding shall be reported back to both the complainant/s and the person affected. It shall also be reported back to the next OGM/AGM of WISA.
- 3) In the event of either part remaining dissatisfied then the matter and evidence shall be put to the membership at the next OGM/AGM where any decision made shall be binding.

RM explained that the purpose of these rules were to keep WISA independent from AFC Wimbledon, although WISA was 100% behind the club and was spending a large part of its income to support the club, for instance, sponsoring today’s game. SF said that the clause would not prevent volunteers such as turnstile operators from being on WISA Committee, indeed several Committee members were matchday volunteers. The clause also allowed a Committee member to serve on the Dons Trust Board as a WISA representative.

Under the new rule, any WISA member could make a conflict of interest complaint. A sub-committee would be set up to make a ruling, but if the member was unhappy about the decision, they could take it to the next Ordinary General Meeting, for the members to decide whether there was a problem.

The Clause was proposed and agreed.

## **5. Motions:**

No motions had been received.

However, an e-mail from a WISA member was read out. It referred to recent incidents (such as the Dartford game) involving Wimbledon fans and asked WISA to condemn such behaviour.

There was a general discussion about the problem, and how to tackle it. It was noted that the trouble tended to be at away games. SF said that WISA had raised concerns with AFC Wimbledon, but the Club was limited as to what it could do. Sometimes, it was poor stewarding (as at the Ramsgate game) that led to problems, but every club had some fans who caused trouble. Several members emphasised the importance of pointing out troublemakers to the Club. Fans with cameraphones could also take photos to identify the culprits.

RM said that no vote could be taken now, but that members might ask WISA Committee to look at the issue. Dons Trust members could also raise this with the DT by putting up a resolution.

## **6. Elections:**

No members were standing for election to the General Committee.

## **7. Plough Lane / WTID Gates:**

Gail Moss told members that WISA was still working to find the best way to remove the paint over the WTID slogan. It seemed logical to carry out a chemical analysis of the paint which had been used, and a paint analysis company had given a modest quote for doing this. Another potential source of information was English Heritage, which gives advice on art restoration, and which had also been contacted.

As yet, work had not started on the Plough Lane site, so the gates were likely to stay there for some time. However, GM asked for suggestions as to where the gates could go at Kingsmeadow or in Merton.

## **8. MK Dons / Wimbledon History Update:**

RM read out a summary of the latest progress, prepared by SW.

WISA's position on the return of our history and honours had not changed; we still believe the best way to resolve this issue would be through a meeting with Pete Winkelman, facilitated by the FA.

MK Dons Supporters Association had still not replied to our last letter, sent in September. John Brockwell, MKDSA Chair, had recently been quoted on a message board saying he believed that all avenues with WISA had been exhausted. In fact, WISA had offered to talk to MKDSA formally about the honours if they obtained a legally binding document from PW saying that any decision reached would be binding on MK Dons.

It was possible that MKDSA's approach to WISA had never been serious. They might have simply been trying to gain credibility, while trying to discredit us as being unreasonable. If this was the case, their ploy had backfired, as WISA has always come across as professional, and football supporters back our campaign.

WISA would write again to MKDSA to ask about their progress either in getting PW to agree to a meeting or to delegate authority to MKDSA. We would also keep the Football Supporters' Federation informed of MKDSA's failure to reply, and keep the FSF involved in our campaign to have the history and honours returned to their rightful owners.

A more positive development was that following discussions with WISA, the FA had agreed that Wimbledon supporters should be given the right to vote in the FA Cup Team of Heroes. Before WISA's intervention, AFC Wimbledon fans were ineligible to vote. As we highlighted to the FA on the phone, the football authorities may be able to take our Club away, but they will never take away the history and the memories of genuine Wimbledon fans. WISA will continue to intervene in situations like this. SF added that any MK Dons fans who wished to vote in the poll would have to do so via WISA.

An important part of the history and honours campaign is Wimbledon Old Players Association, with John Scales the latest player to join. There are now over 100 members. All members had received a WOPA newsletter and a Christmas card.

WOPA has also succeeded in its application to get a Wimbledon side into the Masters Tournament – the first time in seven years that Wimbledon will take part. AFC Wimbledon's board is now looking at the proposal, as their agreement is needed for this to proceed. The tournament would take place in Wembley Arena and a possible date was 16 July.

WOPA was also trying to arrange a showpiece game between former players of Wimbledon and Ajax. WOPA had submitted a business plan to the DT Board but the game had not yet been formally approved. If it went ahead, AFC Wimbledon, the DT, WISA and WOPA would all be supporting this game, with profits to the ground fund. The provisional Ajax squad was exceptionally strong. The game would be similar to the 1988 rematch.

RM thanked JS and SW for their hard work on these and other events in which WOPA has played a part.

## **9. Merton Council's Long Term Plan for the Borough:**

Merton Borough Council was now consulting the public about its long term plan for the borough, known as the Local Development Framework. Over the past few months, WISA had asked members to write in, asking for the return of AFC Wimbledon to a stadium in the borough to be included in the plan. The deadline for letters was the 31 January. Ian Pollock urged everyone who had not already done so to write in. Submissions would be published on the Council's website.

One member raised the issue of the groundshare with Tooting & Mitcham which had been proposed just before we bought Kingsmeadow, and whether this could be considered again. SF said that DT members had decided to buy Kingsmeadow and carry on playing here. Imperial Fields did not offer the same facilities as Kingsmeadow, and would have needed a lot of work.

## **10. FSF / Supporters Direct Update:**

SW, RM and Tim Hillyer had attended the last Southern Region meeting at the Madejski Stadium, and it lasted six hours. The next meeting was on 26 February at Farnborough Town, starting at noon. All FSF members were welcome to come along.

Nicole Hammond reported on the last FSF National Council. Topics of discussion included match kick-off times, the treatment of away fans and the safe standing campaign.

Of interest to Wimbledon fans was discussion of the history and honours campaign. The previous Council meeting had decided that following the decision of the FSF National Conference to reject MKDSA's membership application until the football authorities had tightened up their rules on franchising, and Wimbledon FC's history and honours had been returned to AFC Wimbledon and/or the community of Wimbledon, FSF Chair Malcolm Clarke should be copied in on the correspondence between Simon Wheeler and John Brockwell.

One of NH's responsibilities was the issue of changing the rules on ground moves. The FA, Premier League and Football League had all changed their rules on this, but NH felt that the amended rules were still not robust enough to stop another Charles Koppel from getting round them. However, other Council members disagreed. NH had therefore contacted the lawyers who had previously helped WISA in campaigning against the move to Milton Keynes. They couldn't help, but had recommended another legal firm.

## **11. AFC Wimbledon / Dons Trust Update:**

NH said that the Stadium Working Group, of which she is a member, and the DT had been working on official input to Merton's Local Development Framework, to open up the possibility of the Club's return to Merton. The SWG is actively working with Merton Council, and has met them for advice and updates.

## **!2. Our Aim Was Success:**

IP reported that in order to boost sales, 12 copies of the book had been placed with the Sports Pages bookshop in Charing Cross Road. The shop had now gone into administration, and so those copies had had to be written off.

## **13. Announcements and AOB:**

There being no further business, RM thanked everyone for their attendance. He said that as WISA was sponsoring the game, it would be appreciated if members did not barrack the Man of the Match choice, as WISA members will be making that decision!